I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. ET949700348US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 125, 2003

016336-001011US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

B. Robert Franza Jr. et al

Serial No.: Unassigned

Parent Serial No.: 09/786,066

Application No.: Unassigned Parent Filed: February 28, 2001

For: STABLE ISOTOPE METABOLIC LABELING FOR ANALYSIS OF

BIOPOLYMERS

Examiner: Unassigned Parent Exr.: David A. Lambertson

Art Unit: Unassigned Parent Art Unit: 1636

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop Patent Application P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the

following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 12 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 15 of this paper.